

REMARKS

Claims 55-58 and 77-84 have been allowed.

Claims 30-36 and 59-76, which previously had been withdrawn, have been canceled without prejudice pursuant to MPEP 821.02 in order to facilitate prosecution of this application, and one or more of these claims may be pursued in a divisional application claiming priority to this one.

Claims 45, 46 and 48 have been canceled without prejudice solely to facilitate prosecution of this application, in order to allow claims 55-58 and 77-84 to issue, and not for any reason related to their patentability. One or more of claims 45, 46 and 48 may be pursued in a continuation application claiming priority to this one. The cancellation of claims 45, 46 and 48 does not and cannot be construed to imply agreement or acquiescence with the claim rejections of the Final Action, nor does it or can it be construed to limit the scope of claims that issue in this patent application or in any patent application claiming priority to this one.

The claim rejections of the Final Action are expressly disagreed with and traversed in their entirety. For example, the Final Action misapprehends the term "anastomosis device," and construes the term at variance with its standard usage by those skilled in the art by suggesting that a plurality of clips somehow suggests a one-piece anastomosis device.

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE

The only remaining pending claims have been allowed, and issuance of a patent with those allowed claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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